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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1631 Customer No.: 035811
Examiner : Karlheinz R. Skowronek
Serial No. : 10/734,023
Filed : December 11, 2003
Inventors : Anne Vanet Docket No.: 1421-03
: Michaela Muller-Trutwin
: Thomas Valère Confirmation No.: 2355
Title : METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING MOTIFS AND/
: OR COMBINATIONS OF MOTIFS HAVING A
: BOOLEAN STATE OF PREDETERMINED
: MUTATION IN A SET OF SEQUENCES AND
: ITS APPLICATIONS

Dated: May 31, 2007

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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For

Postcard
Response

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Name of Applicant, Assignee, Applicant's Attorney
or Registered Representative:

DLA Piper US LLP
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By:

Victoria B. Menie

Date:

May 31, 2007



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RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment

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Sir:

This is submitted in response to the Official Action dated May 1, 2007.

The Applicants acknowledge the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 dividing the Application into twelve separate groups of claims.

The Applicants first respectfully request that the number of groups be decreased to an equitable number of groups. In that regard, the Applicants respectfully request that at least Groups V, VI and VII be combined together. The Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction itself stands in support of the recombination inasmuch as the three different groups are all classified in exactly the same class and subclass, namely Class 530 and Subclass 300. This is no burden on the Patent Office to conduct an appropriate search on the subject matter of those three groups.

Similarly, the Applicants respectfully request that Groups VIII, IX and X be recombined. They too are all found in the same class and subclass, namely Class 514 and Subclass 2. There is no burden on the Patent Office to search and examine those three groups of claims.

The Applicants elect Group I, including Claims 1-10 and 20-29, with traverse at least as noted above with respect to Groups V-X. Confirmation of the Applicants' election of Group I is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the requirement for the election of species. The Applicants elect the sequence related to the protease of HIV as set forth in Claim 20. The Applicants respectfully submit that at least Claims 1-10 and 20 read on the elected species.

The Applicants respectfully request prompt examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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